

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An alternator for use in an automotive vehicle,
the alternator comprising:

an armature having multi-phase windings generating
alternating current therein;

a rectifier having a plurality of rectifier elements
for rectifying the alternating current into direct current
and a phase terminal connected to one of the multi-phase
windings, the phase terminal extending from the rectifier;
and

a voltage regulator for controlling voltage
generated in the armature, the voltage regulator including a
detector terminal connected to the phase terminal, wherein:

the detector terminal is bent in a U-shape thereby
forming a first portion extending from the voltage regulator,
a second portion positioned in parallel to the first portion,
and a U-shaped portion positioned between the first and the
second portions;

the phase terminal is sandwiched between the first
and the second portions of the detector terminal and is
welded to the detector terminal by resistance welding; and

a slit window is formed in the detector terminal, so
that an amount of current, bypassing the phase terminal,
flowing through the first portion, the U-shaped portion and
the second portion in a process of the resistance welding is
suppressed by the slit window.

2. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:
the slit window is formed in the U-shaped portion of
the detector terminal.

3. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:
the slit window is formed in the first portion of
the detector terminal.

4. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:
the slit window is formed in the second portion of
the detector terminal.

5. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:
a contacting area of the phase terminal to the
detector terminal is larger than a cross-sectional area of
the detector terminal at a position where the slit window is
located.

6. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:
the detector terminal is formed by laminating a
plurality of plates.

7. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:
the detector terminal is made of a material having
an electrical resistance lower than that of a ferrous
material.